



## *Sharing New Visions*

The Missouri Fine Arts Academy is a program for rising high school juniors or seniors who are talented in the arts areas of music, visual arts, theater, or dance. The three-week residential program is held on the campus of Missouri State University in Springfield.

Funds to support the Academy are appropriated by the Missouri Legislature. The State Board of Education is responsible for setting policies for the Academy, which is administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in cooperation with officials of Missouri State University.

The Fine Arts Academy is evidence of Missouri's commitment to providing the special learning opportunities that talented students need in order to reach their full potential. The Academy offers specialized curriculum, mentoring, and interdisciplinary experiences to students who have displayed extraordinary talent and interest in the arts. Since its inception in 1996, more than 1,850 students and 70 faculty members have participated in this unique learning environment and shared its ideas with their own schools and communities.

## *Purposes*

The major purposes of the Missouri Fine Arts Academy are:

- To help gifted students achieve their full potential and motivate them to use their abilities in attaining higher goals.
- To encourage local schools to establish and/or improve programs for artistically gifted youth by providing leadership in curriculum development and teaching strategies.
- To provide the state with trained teachers and special materials that can help improve education for artistically gifted students.

Visit the Missouri Fine Arts Academy Web site at [www.missouristate.edu/mfaa](http://www.missouristate.edu/mfaa)

## *Tuition and Expenses*

Funds to operate the Academy are provided by the State of Missouri. There is no cost to students or their families for tuition, room and board, instructional materials, or Academy-related activities; however, the cost of travel to and from the Academy site, health insurance, as well as personal and incidental expenses are the responsibility of the student and family. Schools or local civic organizations may wish to provide financial assistance for students.

## *Faculty and Staff*

Instructors at the Fine Arts Academy represent a highly select group, recruited from Missouri's high schools, colleges, universities, and arts groups. Among the characteristics sought in faculty and staff members are knowledge of the subject matter, effectiveness in communication, range of intellectual and cultural interests, evidence of professional involvement, and evidence of creativity in teaching. Faculty and staff are exemplary in their demonstration of these qualities.

## *Program and Curriculum*

The Missouri Fine Arts Academy provides enrichment and challenges in arts disciplines, combined with cultural, recreational, and leadership development activities. Students have an opportunity not only to enhance their artistic skills, but also to explore arts-related issues, deepen their understandings of themselves and their unique abilities, and create a community of learners with similar interests. Audition skills, performance etiquette, and respect for other arts and cultures are emphasized, along with the responsibility to contribute to one's home community. The curriculum has been built with the recognition that talented students have a wide spectrum of interests and concerns.

### **I. Applied Studies**

Each Academy student studies his or her specialty in an applied setting. Vocalists take voice lessons, painters take drawing and painting classes, dancers take technique classes, actors take acting lessons, etc. There is also time for rehearsal and studio work.

### **II. Coursework Related to Specific Artistic Disciplines**

Each artist at the Academy may take one or more courses that will further develop his or her general and specific skills in an arts area. Examples of these kinds of courses include Introduction to World Music, Directing, Conducting, Choreography, and 3-D Self Portraits.

### **III. Interdisciplinary Artistic Studies**

Fine Arts Academy students spend part of each class day in an innovative course of an interdisciplinary nature. These classes, which are designed to foster an understanding of the interrelatedness of the arts, allow students to experience a variety of art forms and to create a student-generated artistic presentation.

### **IV. Enrichment Workshop**

Students who want to explore outside their disciplines may also choose from a variety of Enrichment Workshops (for example, Poetry Workshop). Supervised studio time is provided for visual artists, if desired.

## *The Extracurricular Program*

A broad range of co-curricular and recreational activities is offered, designed to further the Academy's goals of allowing students to explore their talents and begin to attain their potential. Authorities on various topics related to the arts come from many parts of the state and country. Missouri State University Tent Theater; the Drury University Jazz Festival; tours of galleries; student, staff, and faculty performances; and dances have been included as events on the evening program.

## *Facilities*

Missouri State University, host for the Missouri Fine Arts Academy, makes every effort to provide a high-quality, safe, and enjoyable experience for students and staff.

Students are housed in a residence hall under the supervision of resident assistants. Males and females are housed on separate floors. Meals are provided on campus. The library, classrooms, studios, theaters, practice rooms, and the student health service are all located within walking distance. Recreational and extracurricular activities are available close to the residence hall, as are several churches. Academy officials provide transportation to special events. Students and families may make arrangements to attend worship services not within walking distance and to which a MFAA staff member will not accompany students.

## *Important Dates*

This is a general timeline. Dates will vary from year to year.

- September — Student nomination forms distributed to schools
- November — Postmark deadline for student nomination forms
- December — Postmark deadline for faculty and staff application forms
- January — Students, faculty, and staff notified of selection process results
- March — Students notified of program offerings
- June — Missouri Fine Arts Academy

## *Nominating Procedures and Selection Criteria*

Nominations are channeled through the state's public and private secondary schools, each of which is eligible to nominate at least one sophomore or junior student for the Academy. Larger schools may nominate more than one student based on student enrollment. Nominees must be Missouri residents who have not previously attended either the Missouri Scholars Academy or the Missouri Fine Arts Academy.

School districts that receive one nomination may nominate a student from any of the four arts areas (music, visual arts, theater, dance). Districts that receive multiple nominations can submit no more than two from an art area. Schools are also encouraged to consider students who study with private teachers.

## *Nominating Procedures and Selection Criteria (continued)*

To encourage more participation from talented young dancers, the Missouri Fine Arts Academy will review one additional application from any school district or private school if the additional applicant is in the area of dance.

Schools nominating students for the Academy are required to provide specific information to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. A selection committee will evaluate nominations. Participants will be selected on the basis of the following:

- videotapes and portfolios submitted in the prescribed format for specific artistic disciplines
- student essays
- evaluations of leadership, creativity, initiative, personal and social development, problem-solving ability, and a commitment to participate in the Academy for the entire three-week experience
- grade point averages

## *What the Students Say ...*

"I will never forget these past three weeks as long as I live. The lessons I acquired are immeasurable."

"These were the best three weeks of my life. I wouldn't change this for the world."

"You have given me an experience I'd never dreamed of before. I am so much wiser in my field of study because of this."

## *What the Parents Say ...*

"Our son had a terrific experience both academically and socially. He has gained knowledge and confidence beyond our greatest hopes."

"She has always enjoyed her art, but now she has an enthusiasm that can only be credited to the Academy."

"She will treasure the experience forever."

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### ► *For more information, contact:*

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